

# SHARING THE LIGHT

Monthly Newsletter of the  
**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GRAFTON, UCC**  
Worship and Sunday School at 10 a.m.



Volume 3, Number 9

## SEPTEMBER 2021 EDITION

Dear members and friends of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

September is the month

when routines are invited back from vacations,  
when students are invited back to schools,  
when faith-seekers are invited back to faith communities.

September is the month when Homecoming Sunday invites us back to our sanctuary. To honor the occasion of Homecoming Sunday, our sanctuary has written us a letter:

\* \* \*

Dear faithful ones:

*I miss you.*

*I miss the smell of bread cut into small-enough-everyone-can-eat pieces.*

*I miss people leaning over pews to say "Peace!" or "Hello!" or to smile at a child.*

*I miss pointy poinsettias and lilies that make me sneeze.*

*Grape-juice spills and hot-wax drops from little candles? They don't.*

*I miss you.*

*I miss your whispers, your cries, your laughs, your murmurs, your shouts.*

*I archived in my heart every song you've sung and all the melodies—even of those who lip sync.*

*I miss your voices.*

*So, this is a "Welcome back!" card to each of you.*

*Remember: Your loving sanctuary was never  
the manger,*

*or an oasis under a star,*

*or a field outside Bethlehem--*

*though pageants, carols and little candles might confuse the concept.*

*I—your sanctuary—am simply the inn.*

*My role is to say to you, and to everyone: "I am full of many good gifts!"*

*Return to the stable of your heart.*

*There you will find the Child, with Mary and Joseph.*

*You will also see a colorful collage of lambs, camels and angel wings.*

*Why do I miss you?*

*A sanctuary may store bundles and bundles of hay.*

*But you are the manger. You...hold...Christ—whatever the season.*

\* \* \*

May we come together again—in our sanctuary—on September 12, Homecoming Sunday.

Our sanctuary misses us.



*A Shove from the Dove*

Beside you in the journey of faith,

*Rev. Dr. Barbara Therese*

### Staff Information:

Rev. Dr. Barbara Therese, Minister

Kristen Graham, Administrative Assistant, Editor

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*An Invitation  
to  
Homecoming Sunday,  
on  
September 12, 2021  
at  
10 a.m.*



**Homecoming means coming home to what is in your heart.**

May we all  
return, reconnect and rekindle  
our hearts, minds and spirits  
within our faith community!  
Sunday worship is re-vitalized.  
Christian Education is re-imagined.  
Fellowship Time is re-invented.

\* \* \*

**Homecoming unites the past and the present and then propels us into the future.**

*Looking forward to seeing dear friends—both old and new—on Homecoming Sunday,  
September 12!*

Beside you in homecoming spirit,  
*Rev. Barbara*



***Moving Forward!***

It may be hard to believe but fall is just around the corner. Children will be back in school in a few days. The mornings will start to feel cool and crisp again. Leaves will turn brilliant colors and then start to fall. Fall activities will be filling our calendars: Homecoming Sunday and the start of Sunday School classes, the Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Workshops, maybe even an “Epic Potluck.” But how will all of this happen with Covid still around?

The Onward and Forward Team has been monitoring the surge of the coronavirus delta variant. The “Two out of Three” plan we outlined in the spring--mask wearing *and* the practice of safe distancing while inside and either masks *or* distancing when outside--has served us well through the summer. We will continue with this practice through the fall. Remember, while many in our congregation have the added protection of vaccines to keep us safe, children are not yet eligible to receive the shots. Since vaccinated people can be asymptomatic carriers, having everyone mask up is the best way to safely allow our children to return to church.

Thank you all for helping to keep our church family safe!

The Onward and Forward Team:  
Joanne Hable, Justin Cotter, Larry Drew, Sue Howell

## ***Holy Happenings in September!***

*Faith-deepening events within our faith community  
during our In-Person and Online Services on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.*

Connect with us at: [facebook.com/UCCGrafton/](https://www.facebook.com/UCCGrafton/)

### **September 5 = “Anti-Bully Sunday” and Feast for All**

**Sacred Story: *Hey, Little Ant!***

Proverbs 6:6 declares: “Go to the ant, consider its ways, and be wise.”

On Anti-Bully Sunday, when we decry all forms of bullying,  
we consider a storybook encounter between an ant  
and a bully who threatens to squash the ant out of existence.

In your homes, please assemble a bit of bread as we celebrate the Feast for All.

\* \* \*

### **September 12 = Homecoming Sunday**

**Sermon: *So, How's Your Love Life?***

Love your neighbor as yourself. Easy to say and easy to do, right?

On Homecoming Sunday, we admit that loving our neighbor may be difficult.

Even so, it is our calling. Love is more than courtesy. Love is life-changing.

\* \* \*

### **September 19 = Nouvelle Voix (“New Voice”) Sunday and Blessing of All Teachers**

**Preacher: Mrs. Carrie Peacock**

**Sermon: *I Am a Teacher, and This Is What I Have Learned***

On this Sunday when all teachers within our faith community are blessed,  
educator/speaker Carrie Peacock recounts powerful lessons of life and faith  
from her classroom that will surprise, challenge and inspire all listeners.

\* \* \*

**NOTE: These three Sunday services will be conducted indoors.  
A Time of Fellowship will be conducted outdoors.**

\* \* \*

### **September 26 = Harvest Fair Sunday**

**Mini-Message: *Anything Can Be!***

On Harvest Sunday, we join our hearts and our hands  
to present our 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Festival!

As we ask God's blessing upon our efforts and our fellowship,  
we gather—for 18 minutes--on the church steps (facing the Common) to hear  
encouraging words from Holy Scripture

and

emboldening words from Shel Silverstein:

Anything can be!

\* \* \*

**NOTE: This brief Service of Blessing will be conducted outdoors.  
However, this service will not be live-streamed on Harvest Fair Sunday.**

*New Leaves on the Tree  
of Our Church's Life*



*Celebrating new beginnings and new members!*

On “Confirmation Sunday,” August 1, our faith community welcomed three new youthful members:

*Nickolas (“Nick”) Coldwell   Abigail (“Abby”) Hise   Margaret (“Maggie”) McLean*

Nick notes his involvement in BSA Troop 107 and lists his skills and interests as: landscaping and the outdoors. Within our faith community, Nick seeks to share his time and talent in special worship services (Christmas Eve and Youth Sunday), mission and outreach projects (preparing lunches for Worcester Fellowship and delivery of holiday gifts), community and faith community events (Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Social.)

Abby names her skills and interests as: singing; playing guitar, bass and piano; theater; camping; and hiking. In our congregational life, Abby is eager to participate in: special worship, musical and dramatic events; working with children, in Youth Group and mission projects; and engaging in community events (Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Social and Grafton Celebrates the Holidays).

Maggie identifies her skills and interests as: soccer, dance and theater. In the life of our church, Maggie is eager to contribute her skills to: special Sunday services, choral and dramatic events; working with children, in Youth Group and mission projects; and participating in outreach and community events (non-perishable food collection, delivery of holiday gifts, Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Social).

On “New Member Sunday,” August 22, our family of faith welcomed a new young adult member:

*Sophia (“Sophie”) Coldwell*

Sophie describes her skills and interests as: leading, public speaking, theater, music, reading, designing, photography and videography. While Sophie begins her first year of college this September, she looks forward to sharing her gifts and energy in: Website and Tech support; Mission and Outreach activities; Fellowship and Community events; and Christian Education programs.

During the month of August, our faith community celebrated the Baptisms of:

*Ethan Robert Sutherland - Son of Mark and Julie (Murray) Sutherland; August 8*

*Addison Leeigh O'Toole – Daughter of Cameron O'Toole and Shelbe Turpin; August 22*

*Cayden Daniel Hall – Son of Christopher and Stephanie (Merrill) Hall; August 29*

\* \* \*

*With love, joy and gratitude, we celebrate these new “Leaves on the Tree”  
of our church's life!*

***Sharing-the-Light Food Collection:  
Partnering with Scouts and 12-Step Groups  
to support our Grafton Food Bank***

*Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.* (Helen Keller)

Did you know...that the sacred space of our church facility is “home” to more than a dozen Scouting organizations and to two 12-Step support groups?

Did you know...that small acts of kindness—when multiplied by many—may transform the world?

In light of “the power of many and the power of community,” our congregation actively collaborates with the service groups who regularly meet at our church to support our Sharing-the-Light Food Collection for our local Grafton Food Bank.

Our Grafton Food Bank requests these non-perishable items:

**Canned fruit**

**Coffee**

**Peanut Butter**

**Solid white tuna in water**

**Cereal (Rice Krispies and Cheerios)**

**Toothpaste (4 oz. and larger)**

**Toothbrushes (two-pack)**

During our worship service on every first Sunday of the month, our “Message for All Ages” invites all members of our faith community to place donations into our “Sharing the Light” Basket.

Furthermore, a large basket to receive donations for the Grafton Food Bank is prominently positioned in our Church Kitchen to receive contributions on Monday through Saturday.

Once a month, Rev. Barbara transports all the donated goods to the Grafton Food Bank, located in the Grafton Municipal Building.

Bless you for “sharing the Light” of health and hope within our community!

\* \* \* \* \*



*We are so thankful to everyone for the cards and messages sent to us over the last months with the rather sudden passing of David. Your concern, thoughts and prayers have meant so very much to us.*

*Thank you and may God be with you all.*

*Barbara, Callum, Burgess and families*

***A Prayer: Why Not?***

God:

In the face of fear,  
let me hope.

In the face of doubt,  
let me know.

In the grip of loneliness,  
let me reach out.

In the grip of pain,  
let me breathe.

In spite of grief,  
let me smile.

In spite of anger,  
let me pray.

# RAFFLE BASKETS

We need your help in putting together raffle baskets for the Harvest Fair!

Please let Lorraine Swanson know if you can donate a filled basket and what the theme will be:

[swanmom924@gmail.com](mailto:swanmom924@gmail.com) or 508-887-6214

Some theme basket ideas are:

“Italian” – foods, pasta, wine, colander, biscotti, pizzelles

“Relax” – wine, glasses, snacks, book

“For the Kids” – toys, books, puzzles

“For the Crafter” – arts and craft supplies

“Autumn” – fall decorations

“Furry Friends” – cat or dog toys, treat, food

“Date Night” – wine, chocolates, gift card to restaurant

“Self Care” – lotions, candle, cd, skin care, soaps, book

“Sports Fan” – anything sports-related

“Movie Night” – drinks, popcorn, candy, dvd

“Kitchen” – gadgets, dish towels, frypan, cookbook

“Laundry” – basket, detergent, dryer sheets, set of towels

If you are able...please wrap your entire basket in CLEAR cellophane gift wrap and tie on top with ribbon.  
(An elastic with a bow added works too!)

Thank you so much for supporting our church and our Harvest Fair!





## Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Social 2021

**Mark your calendars and save the date!**

The 42nd annual Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Social is scheduled for **Sunday, September 26, 2021, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (NEW TIME THIS YEAR!)**. This event is rain or shine.

Our goals for the Fair are to generate funds for the Church's local and wider missions by creating a Family Fun Event that promotes Fellowship throughout the Church and Community.

### **Can you commit to volunteering on or before Fair Day?**

- Please start putting aside any items for the yard sale.
- Can you create a raffle basket? (see separate article.)
- You're invited to a Pie Workshop - dates TBA - Watch your emails.
- Watch for a Sign-Up Genius to work at a table on Fair Day.
- Pray for good weather and spread the word to your friends and neighbors!

## GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP

### VOLUNTEERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

Shop Hours: Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#### Thursday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sept. 2	April Lane 11-2, Lynne Tsombakos 2-3
9	Diane Lalone
16	April Lane 11-2, Lynne Tsombakos 2-3
23	Diane Lalone
30	April Lane 11-2, Diane Chaisson 2-3

#### Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sept. 4	Diane Chaisson
11	Kim Stewart
18	Diane Chaisson
25	Kim Stewart
	Lynne Tsombakos
	Diane Chaisson

#### Sunday (9/26 only) 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Diane Chaisson  
Kim Stewart  
Lynne Tsombakos

In addition to Thursdays and Saturdays in September, the Thrift Shop will also be open on Harvest Fair Sunday, September 26, from 11-3.

Reminder: All summer items continue to be 50% off!

The Thrift Shop is looking for more volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, contact April Lane at [aprild5850@yahoo.com](mailto:aprild5850@yahoo.com).



**We need your help!**

***Backpacks for Back-to-School  
Students***



**Our Mission/Outreach Committee invites YOU  
to fill the backpacks for children returning to school  
this fall.**

**What is needed to fill each backpack?**

- \* 3 notebooks or a 3-subject notebook
- \* Pencil case
- \* 3-5 folders with pockets
- \* Ruler
- \* Pencils
- \* Crayola markers - 12 pack
- \* Pens - blue/black
- \* Colored pencils - 12 pack
- \* Scissors (blunt)
- \* Crayons - 24 pack
- \* Glue sticks
- \* Highlighters
- \* 3" X 5" index cards

**Please bring the items to the Thrift Shop and members  
of the Mission/Outreach Committee will fill and deliver  
the backpacks.**

**The church is open on Mondays and Wednesdays  
from 9:00 am - 2:30 pm, Thursdays from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm,  
and Saturdays from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.**



## September Birthdays

Andy Deschenes 9/3

Al Blanchard 9/14

Julie Capuzziello 9/14

Meghan Foucher 9/22

Rob Lane 9/24

Lorraine Swanson 9/24



## CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE *September 2021*

Join the Care and Concern Circle by keeping these people in your prayers now and throughout your week.

***If you have a special request for prayer that you want listed in the Care & Concern Circle, please call the church office: 508-839-4513. Your prayer request may be included in the PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE during our online worship service on Sunday mornings.***

**We pray for recovery, well-being and comfort for:**

Joan-Beth  
Amanda  
Liz

Louise and George  
Jeff  
Family of Bill Cahill

Vicky  
Donald  
Kristina



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# SHARING THE LIGHT

*Monthly Newsletter of the Congregational Church of Grafton*

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